

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/648,246

Examiner

Weilun Lo

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, YASUHIRO

Art Unit

3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 6-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 08/27/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Weilun Lo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3747

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Larry Nixon on 5/24/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (amended). A throttle valve system of an internal combustion engine, the throttle valve system comprising:

a throttle valve for controlling a flow rate of intake air to be drawn into the engine;

a throttle body having an outer bore tube and an inner bore tube accommodating the throttle valve so that the throttle valve can open or close, wherein

the throttle valve system is formed with an annular trapping space between the outer periphery of the inner bore tube and an inner periphery of the outer bore tube for trapping water entering the throttle body, the annular trapping space is separated by a partition wall through an entire circumference of the inner bore tube,

the partition wall defines a trapping concavity for trapping the water, which flows in from an upstream side of the throttle valve, at least in a portion of the annular space upstream of the partition wall, and

the throttle body is formed in double -tube structure, in which the outer bore tube circumferentially surrounds an outer periphery of the inner bore tube, a radial distance between the inner bore tube and the outer bore tube at a certain position differs from the radial distance between the inner bore tube and the outer bore tube at another position, and a central axis of the inner bore tube is deviated from a central axis of the outer bore tube.

Claim 6 (amended). The throttle valve system of the internal combustion engine as in claim 1, wherein

the trapping space is formed in a required size and a position corresponding to a mounting position of the throttle body.

Claims 2 and 3 are canceled for having been incorporated into claim 1.

Claims 4, 5, and 18 are canceled for being drawn to an embodiment that is no longer covered by independent claim 1.

Claims 12-17 are canceled for being redundant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Weilun Lo whose telephone number is 703-308-1957. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM TO 7:00PM Tu-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on 703-308-1946. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Weilun Lo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747